Restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports

704. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 29 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th July, 2004 and state the details of the overseas and Indian companies that have evinced interest in the restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): The last date of receipt of Expressions of Interest is 20th July, 2004. So far, no EOI (Expressions of Interest) has been received.

Loss incurring airports

†705. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of airports in the country are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to meet the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2003-04,115 airports of Airports Authority of India, including 38 non-operational airports had incurred a total loss of Rs. 274.92 crores.

(c) Airports Authority of India is *inter-alia* taking steps to increase the non-aeronautical revenue and also reduction of the controllable expenditure at these airports.

Aviation agreements with South-East Asian countries

706. SHRIABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral aggreements signed between India and South-East Asian countries including Singapore and Thailand in the field of aviation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of flights the two sides have agreed to fly on various sectors;

(c) whether it is a fact that many foreign airlines from South-East Asian countries have shown interest to cover various destinations in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Designated airlines of member countries of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), including Singapore and Thailand, have been offered up to a daily service to each of four metro cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata subject to reciprocal rights for the Indian side. They have also been offered unlimited number of flights to 18 other tourist gateways in India subject to reciprocal rights being granted to the Indian side. Airlines designated by Singapore and Malayasia can also operate agreed number of services of Bangalore and Hyderabad and airlines of Thailand to Bangalore. Actual operations are, however, matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

Penalty provisions in Companies Act

707. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Company Affairs has asked the Committee examining existing penalty and compounding provisions in the Companies Act to fine-tune a proposal to grade violations under the Act;

(b) if so, Whether the Committee has already submitted its recommendations; and

(c) to what extent Government have decided to simplify the Companies Act and by when the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Expert Group has been set up to exam in, *inter-alia,* the rationlisation of penalties and provisions for compounding in the Companies Act, 1956 and to make suggestions for devising penalties commensurate